



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services
Director of Mental Health

At its meeting held November 30, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Director of Mental Health's joint recommendation with the Director of Health Services to authorize the Departments of Mental Health and Health Services to implement a plan for the relief of the County Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES Relief Plan), effective upon Board approval; and approve the following related matters:

Authorize the Director of Mental Health to utilize one-time funding from the Realignment Trust Fund Account, in amount of \$7,250,000 and Federal Financial Participation (FFP) Medi-Cal revenue to offset the cost of the PES Relief Plan;

Instruct the Director of Mental Health to redirect the Department of Mental Health's existing resources, as necessary, in future years to backfill the lapse of one-time Realignment funds to ensure that critical components of the PES Relief Plan are maintained;

Authorize the Department of Mental Health to fill 58.5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions in excess of what is provided for in the Department of Mental Health's staffing ordinance;

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Approve the Department of Mental Health's request for appropriation adjustment in amount of \$4,768,000 for Fiscal Year 2004-05, fully funded by one-time Realignment Trust Fund Account funding (\$4,325,000) and FFP Medi-Cal revenue (\$443,000) to fund Salaries & Employee Benefits (S&EB), Services and Supplies (S&S), and Fixed Assets necessary to implement the PES Relief Plan; and Approve the Department of Health Services' request for appropriation adjustment in amount of \$1,400,000, fully funded by an Intrafund Transfer from the Department of Mental Health to offset S&EB and S&S to augment PES services at the Department of Health Services.

Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, Director of Health Services, Marvin J. Southard, Director of Mental Health and Mike Rupp addressed the Board.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich:

"On November 3, 2004, the Board instructed the Directors of Health Services and Mental Health to assess the factors leading to increased demands for psychiatric emergency services and to immediately develop a plan to alleviate the overcrowding of psychiatric emergency departments. While acknowledging the many months of preparation, involvement of stakeholder groups and other efforts that have gone into the development of the Plan for Relief of County Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Services, the plan before the Board does not address the psychiatric emergency needs of residents on a Countywide basis, especially in the area of SPA 2. Olive View Medical Center consistently encounters excess emergency psychiatric demands. The Plan as proposed would send emergency psychiatric patients from county hospitals to Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center. It is very unlikely, due to the distances involved, that any psychiatric emergency patient at Olive View will ever be transported to Augustus F. Hawkins for urgent care or 23 hour stabilization.

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“Furthermore, among the 58.5 FTEs and other expenditures budgeted to this new, directly operated \$5 million program, no funds or positions are allocated to Olive View despite the fact that the emergency psychiatric caseload at Olive View is comparable to that of other County hospitals. In addition, there is little assurance that a plan will be developed in the near future for SPA 2 after the Augustus Hawkins program is evaluated, unless this matter is specifically addressed by the Board.”

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Director of Mental Health’s joint attached recommendation with the Director of Health Services; and
2. Instructed the Directors of Health Services and Mental Health to report back to the Board in sixty days with a plan, budget, and timeline for a program at Olive View Medical Center that addresses the mental health needs of area residents with the plan to be similar to the proposed plan for Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center while reflecting a program model appropriate for the need in SPA 2, including identified space, staff, and referral connections with community based agencies.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel